

# WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

Released: April 9, 2001, 1:00 p.m.

Published Weekly

CWP Vol 01 No 5



United States  
Department  
of Agriculture  
National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

## Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending April 8, 2001

### WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Unseasonably cool temperatures and rainfall limited spring fieldwork  
Fruit trees neared full bloom**

### FIELD CROPS

Cold conditions slowed growth and development of both winter wheat and spring planted cereals. Fields in the western part of the state remained saturated, preventing any early cultivation. Potato planting was in full swing throughout the Basin. Christmas tree growers continued fertilizing plantations. Poor weather conditions caused bedding plant nurseries to report slow sales. On the other hand, commercial daffodil growers reported strong sales last week. Turfgrass growers continued fertilizing, mowing, and harvesting.

### LIVESTOCK

Cows continued to calve. Pasture and range conditions were slow developing due to the cool, wet conditions experienced throughout much of the state. Hay producers applied chicken manure to forage fields.

### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Fruit growers battled the cold weather last week, as producers worked hard to prevent frost damage. Cherries were near full bloom with poor pollination and frost damage reported. Peaches and nectarines were in bloom. Blueberry growers pruned established fields and mowed cover crops of perennial rye grass between rows. Vegetable planting continued with seeding of carrots, onions, and peas. Producers were busy preparing sweet corn ground for planting.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
4.4	4.3

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	39	19	44	38
Spring Wheat Emerged	13	5	11	13
Barley Planted	19	13	29	27
Barley Emerged	4	1	6	7
Potatoes Planted	19	9	28	19
Potatoes Emerged	2	1	6	2
Corn Planted	1	0	9	3
Dry Peas Planted	5	2	2	5
Pro. Green Peas Planted	3	1	9	2

Soil Moisture	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
Soil Type	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	1	16	83	-
Subsoil	7	45	48	-
Irrigation Water	-	30	70	-
Hay and Roughage	-	5	95	-

VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	-	2	38	55	5
Winter Wheat Irrigated	-	-	5	95	-
Spring Wheat Dryland	-	-	40	60	-
Spring Wheat Irrigated	-	-	5	95	-
Barley Dryland	-	-	-	100	-
Barley Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-

VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

Washington State University  
Cooperative Extension Service  
Mike Tate  
Dean/Director, Coop Extension

USDA  
Farm Service Agency  
Larry R. Albin  
State Director

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
Doug Hasslen - State Statistician  
Jim Johnson - Ag Statistician  
Michelle Fox - Ag Statistician

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## WESTERN

**Grays Harbor:** Rain and hail showers throughout the week, prevented any field cultivation. Christmas tree growers continued fertilizing plantations and applying herbicides for weed control. Blueberry growers were busy pruning established fields. Commercial daffodil growers continued to report strong flower sales. Hay producers applied chicken manure to forage fields. Bedding plant nurseries reported slow sales due to adverse weather conditions.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis:** It is looking more and more like the drought is over—just in time to play havoc with spring fieldwork. Cold, wet weather has pretty much brought everything to a standstill.

**Pierce/Thurston:** Early vegetable planting began. Crop conditions were normal for this time of the year. There was no report of damage to crops due

to weather conditions.

**Snohomish/Clallum:** Temperatures were below normal for daytime and nighttime. Snow and heavy rain were received in several areas during the week. Precipitation continued to be several inches below normal for the season. Pastures in Snohomish County were showing spring growth.

**Thurston:** Unseasonably cool temperatures and rain throughout the week limited many agricultural activities. Fields remained super saturated, preventing any early cultivation. Christmas tree growers continued fertilizing plantations. Turfgrass growers continued mowing and fertilizing between showers. Blueberry growers mowed cover crops of perennial ryegrass between rows. Dairy producers continued applying liquid manure on forage fields.

## CENTRAL

**Benton:** Frost kept fruit growers active with protection. Cherries were near full bloom with very poor pollination conditions. Growers were apprehensive about the quantity of irrigation water.

**Chelan:** The fruit trees were doing fine with no winter frost damage. Apricots were at the petal fall stage. Pears and cherries will be blooming next week from about April 16 until May 10, depending on the elevation. Apples will bloom during the period from April 20 through May 15.

**Franklin:** Late evenings to early mornings have been frosty, with below freezing during part of the day. Orchards were applying frost control measures all week, and concern for freeze damage escalated. Days have been cool, with afternoons

warming to normal temperatures. Another timely rain plus snow in the north end of the county was received early in the week, resulting in much improved conditions for the dryland wheat crop and rangeland. Most of the peas were planted and substantial acres of potatoes were planted during the week. Overall the conditions were good for normal farming operations this time of the year.

**Franklin 2<sup>nd</sup> Report:** Early potato planting continued. Seeding of carrots, onions, and peas also continued.

**Kittitas:** Recent reports indicated that Kittitas Reclamation District irrigators will receive around 30 percent of normal water deliveries. This will affect about 17,000 acres of cropland. It is anticipated that this will be enough water to get a

first cutting of timothy hay. Producers were hoping for a cool, wet spring. Early fieldwork continued, with corrugating hay fields, fertilizing, and getting sweet corn ground ready for planting.

**Kittitas (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Much needed moisture has been received in the Kittitas Valley. This has slightly delayed field preparation. Cows were continuing to calve.

**Yakima:** Temperatures averaged 2 to 9 degrees below normal, with a low temperature of 23 degrees on April 3. Several cherry growers reported crop damage due to the cold weather.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Peaches and nectarines were in bloom. Cherries and dandelions have started to bloom. Cold night time temperatures necessitated frost control.

## **EASTERN**

**Adams:** Cold conditions, during the past week, slowed growth and development of both winter wheat and spring planted cereals.

**Asotin:** Cold weather, rain and snow halted all fieldwork during the week. With subsoil moisture still below normal, the additional precipitation was welcome. However, producers were concerned that spring planting will be delayed due to the cold, wet conditions. Pastures and rangeland were slow in developing due to the wet weather conditions.

**Lincoln:** Some welcomed moisture was received, in the form of snow and some rain. Temperatures were still on the cool side. Fieldwork was progressing and seeding was beginning. The moisture situation was still uncertain. Pastures were greening up nicely.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> report):** Cold conditions slowed both growth and development of winter wheat and spring planting. Snow mold damage was being reported and some re-seeding to spring wheat took

place in the hardest hit areas.

**Spokane/Pend Oreille:** Both counties received moisture again this week, in the form of either snow or rain. The amounts varied according to the location. The mountains received from 8-24 inches of new snow. Very little tractor work was done. The precipitation helped the moisture in the root zone and hopefully some of the sub-moisture was improving. The winter wheat was starting to look better, but needs some warm weather to get it going. The cool, wet weather was slowing the grass growth in the grazing areas.

**Stevens:** Rain showers were received several days during the week.

**Whitman:** Cold, wet conditions predominated throughout the week, and fieldwork was slowed to a halt across most of the county. Scattered rain and snow showers resulted in modest precipitation accumulations for the week, ranging from .25 to .75 inches.



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WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

April 9, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	30	55	42	-5	0	-4	0	0	0.60	-0.03	6	19.48	-8.05	71	105
Everett	34	55	43	-5	0	-7	0	0	1.01	0.30	5	17.29	-10.24	63	102
Hoquiam	31	53	43	-6	0	-7	0	0	0.65	-0.59	4	32.28	-24.73	57	117
Kelso	30	59	43	-5	0	-7	0	0	0.59	-0.30	6	14.73	-22.50	40	92
Olympia	26	59	42	-4	0	-2	0	0	0.38	-0.51	5	22.50	-20.19	53	103
Seattle-Tacoma	34	62	44	-5	0	-7	0	0	0.72	0.09	4	16.99	-13.63	55	91
Shelton	27	59	42	-6	0	-7	0	0	0.67	-0.48	7	31.08	-25.01	55	106
Tacoma	28	59	42	-6	0	-7	0	0	1.18	0.45	5	17.75	-14.76	55	99
Vancouver	30	58	44	-5	0	-7	0	0	0.63	-0.09	5	17.70	-15.79	53	104
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	28	52	40	-5	0	-5	0	0	0.10	-0.04	3	4.92	-1.90	72	56
Omak	21	55	43	1	0	0	0	0	0.16	-0.05	4	4.15	-5.47	43	47
Stampede Pass	23	43	30	-3	0	0	0	0	0.91	-0.43	6	38.98	-29.13	57	119
Wenatchee	34	55	44	-6	0	-12	0	0	0.01	-0.13	1	4.03	-2.07	66	52
Yakima AP	22	56	41	-7	0	-8	0	0	0.21	0.07	1	3.36	-2.75	55	46
NORTHEAST															
Colville	24	56	42	-3	0	-7	0	0	0.51	0.16	2	9.04	-5.68	61	59
Deer Park	22	49	37	-6	0	-4	0	0	0.86	0.51	5	9.11	-3.96	70	76
Spokane AP	25	48	37	-7	0	-6	0	0	0.45	0.17	4	6.83	-4.78	59	71
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	29	57	45	-4	0	-11	0	0	0.02	-0.12	1	3.58	-1.81	66	49
Moses Lake	29	57	44	-5	0	-11	0	0	0.03	-0.11	2	5.09	-0.30	94	46
Quincy	30	56	44	-4	0	-10	0	0	0.05	-0.09	2	4.28	-1.57	73	44
Ritzville	28	53	39	-6	0	-6	0	0	0.20	-0.01	4	7.27	-1.07	87	60
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	29	59	45	-7	1	-22	0	0	0.04	-0.10	1	4.02	-1.03	80	44
Pasco	29	61	46	-6	1	-20	0	0	0.18	0.04	3	6.05	0.36	106	53
Pullman	25	49	36	-7	0	-3	0	0	0.35	-0.05	5	10.17	-5.25	66	82
Walla Walla AP	30	58	42	-9	0	-16	0	0	0.66	0.24	4	11.24	-3.13	78	71
Whitman Mission	27	61	43	-6	0	-14	0	0	0.41	0.13	3	9.77	-0.09	99	74
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	25	52	38	-7	0	-4	0	0	0.50	0.08	5	9.79	-8.76	53	71
Lewiston ID	28	57	43	-6	0	-14	0	0	0.21	-0.01	5	7.95	0.40	105	71

Summary based on NWS data.  
Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2000  
DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).  
NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.  
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.  
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